

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /064 W

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R 210520Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2606

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1240

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, EAID, LA

SUBJECT: NOTE ON DOWNED HELICOPTER

REFS: A) VIENTIANE 505

B) STATE 032753

1. TRANSMITTED HEREIN IS THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE NOTE
SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DATED FEBRUARY 19, 1975,
CONCERNING THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE BIRD AIR HELICOPTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE - THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICAN PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
UNION OF LAOS AND WISHES TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NUMBER 42
OF JANUARY 22, 1975. IN THAT NOTE THE EMBASSY EXPRESSED
ITS GRAVE CONCERN AT THE SHOOTING DOWN ON JANUARY 18,
1975, OF AN UNARMED AND LEGALLY REGISTERED CIVILIAN
HELICOPTER AND AT THE THREAT TO THE LIVES OF ITS AMERICAN
PILOT AND PASSENGER WHO WERE ENGAGED IN A HUMANITARIAN
MISSION. THE EMBASSY'S NOTE REQUESTED THAT APPROPRIATE
LAO AUTHORITIES UNDERTAKE AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION.

3. QUOTE - THE EMBASSY HAS NOW LEARNED THAT THE LAO
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PATRIOTIC FRONT, IN A RADIO BROADCAST OF FEBRUARY 12,

1975, ADMITTED THAT MEMBERS OF ITS ARMED FORCE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ACT. CONTRARY TO THE ALLEGATIONS MADE IN THIS BROADCAST, THE HELICOPTER WAS IN FACT FLYING A USAID OFFICER WHO WAS ENGAGED IN A MISSION TO HELP REFUGEES. AS THE MINISTRY KNOWS, US ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES HAS BEEN GIVEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. NOT ONLY THE VIOLENT INTERFERENCE BY ELEMENTS OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IN SUCH A MISSION BUT EVEN MORE SERIOUSLY THE APPLAUDING OF THIS ACT BY THE FRONT'S RADIO, RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS THIS REPREHENSIBLE ACT AND URGES THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION TO DETERMINE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS INCIDENT. THE EMBASSY ALSO WISHES TO KNOW HOW THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION PROPOSES TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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